III.   AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- *PLEASE FIND BELOW A MARKED VERSION OF CLAIMS WITH PRESENT STATUS DELINEATED*

  - *THE CLAIMS ARE HEREIN AMENDED, CANCELED, OR ADDED TO, SO AS TO EVENTUATE IN THE NEW SET OF PENDING CLAIMS INDICATED BELOW.   THIS LISTING OF CLAIMS WILL REPLACE ALL PRIOR VERSIONS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION.*

- -- The status of each claim is indicated after the claim number by use of a parenthetical identifier selected from: (Original), (Currently amended), (Canceled), (Withdrawn), (Withdrawn – currently amended), (Previously presented), (New), and (Not entered). Claim text is provided for each claim in the listing except for the claims status "canceled" or "not entered." Only claims having the status of "Currently amended" or "Withdrawn – currently amended" include markings to indicate changes that have been made relative to the immediate prior version of the claims. The text of any deleted matter is shown by strike-through, except that double brackets placed before and after deleted characters of five or fewer consecutive characters may be used. The text of any added subject matter is shown by underlining the added text. Claims that were previously canceled that are reinstated here, if any, are reinstated by adding the claim as a "(New)" claim with a new claim number.

COMPLETE LIST OF CLAIMS THAT ARE OR HAVE BEEN BEFORE THE OFFICE
AFTER ENTRANCE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE HEREIN

**PENDING CLAIMS - CURRENTLY AMENDED OR PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED
(26-39)**

What is claimed:

1. – 25. (CANCELED)

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   A computer process for performing step-out payments on a securities trading system, comprising a trader system, an executing broker system, and a research broker, the computer process comprising:

establishing an electronic data a digital computer connection within said securities trading system, between [[the]] said trader system and [[the]] said executing broker system operably configured to intercept data;

intercepting the electronic digital data over [[the]] said digital computer connection, said data related to trade execution, comprising orders and executions, communicated between the executing broker system and the trader system;

communicating said electronic digital data to a step-out calculation module within [[the]] said securities trading system;

processing said electronic digital data through said step-out calculation module that calculates step-out information;

segregating step-out payments within said step-out calculation module due to [[the]] said research broker from payments due to [[said]] an executing broker;

presenting said step-out information to an interface associated with said trader system;

making said step-out payments automatically from said securities trading system to said research broker without providing information related to trade execution to said research broker; and

notifying [[a]] said research broker ~~over an interface~~ from the securities trading system that said step-out payment is stepped-out.

27. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A computer process, in accordance with claim 26, wherein said ~~payment is~~ payments are chosen within said securities trading system from the group consisting of commissions, traditional step-ins, anonymous step-ins and hard-dollar payment.

28. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A computer process, in accordance with claim 26, further comprising automatically making [[the]] said step-out payments by said securities trading system in accordance with [[said]] a trader's control inputs.

29. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A computer process, in accordance with claim 28, wherein process for entering said control input comprises:

accepting at said securities trading system a specification of favored or blocked stocks; and

accepting at said securities trading system a designation of weighting, less or more, to be applied to said specification.

30. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A computer process, in accordance with claim 28, wherein process for entering said control input comprises:

accepting at said securities trading system an [[the]] identification of said research broker for which share quantities will be stepped in; and

accepting at said securities trading system an instruction whether said payment will be anonymous or traditional.

31. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A computer process, in accordance with claim 28, wherein process for entering said control input comprises:

accepting at said securities trading system an [[the]] instruction to adhere to client directions; and

accepting at said securities trading system a designation of weighting, less or more, to be applied to said instruction.

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   A computer process, in accordance with claim 28, wherein process for entering said control input comprises:

accepting at said securities trading system an [[the]] instruction to pay the said research broker that is furthest behind first; and

accepting at said securities trading system a designation of weighting, less or more, to be applied to process for entering said control input.

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   A computer process, in accordance with claim 28, wherein process for entering said control input comprises:

accepting at said securities trading system an [[the]] instruction to pay the said research broker that are paid with soft dollars first; and

accepting at said securities trading system a designation of weighting, less or more, to be applied to process for entering said control input.

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   A computer process, in accordance with claim 28, wherein process for entering said control input comprises:

accepting at said securities trading system an [[the]] instruction to spread payments out amongst as many said research brokers as possible; and

accepting at said securities trading system a designation of weighting, less or more, to be applied to said instruction.

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   A computer process, in accordance with claim 26, ~~wherein said performance reports comprise~~ further comprising generating a performance report, via said securities trading system, assessing the step-outs and step-ins against a predetermined budget.

36. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   A computer process, in accordance with claim 26, ~~wherein said performance reports comprise~~ further comprising generating a performance

report, via said securities trading system, listing [[the]] a target percentage of the entire commissions which [[the]] said research broker is to be paid over a predetermined period.

37. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   A computer process, in accordance with claim 26, wherein said performance reports comprise further comprising generating a performance report, via said securities trading system, depicting a [[the]] budgeted commission amount and [[the]] said commission for a predetermined period.

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   A computer process, in accordance with claim 26, wherein said performance reports comprise further comprising generating a performance report, via said securities trading system, depicting how the amount of said commission is distributed among said executing brokers, said research brokers, soft dollars and discretionary distributions.

39. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   A process within a securities trading computer system for performing securities step-out arrangements; the process comprising:

determining the commission payments due over a set period of time from data intercepted over [[an]] a digital electronic data connection within said computer system;

determining the number of step-out payments due on said commission payments within by a step-out calculation module within said computer system;

determining the details of each step-out payment due on said commission payments within said step-out calculation module;

determining within said step-out calculation module the commission payments due to an executing broker less the step-out[[s]] payments due to one or more research broker[[s]];

presenting to a trader via an interface said computer system, a suggestion of said commission payments and performing said commission payments automatically over said computer system;

performing automatic payments via said computer system, wherein payments are said suggested commission payments or commission payments revised by said trader;

notifying said executing broker via ~~said computer system that~~ ~~an interface of the availability of~~ said commission payments over set period of time payable to said executing broker are available; and

notifying said one or more research broker via said computer system that ~~an interface of~~ said step-out payments over set period of time ~~payable to research broker without disclosure~~ are available, without disclosing to said one or more research broker ~~of~~ said commission ~~payment made~~ payments made available to said executing broker.